

Application No.: 10/771,707

Art Unit: 1745

Docket No.: TOW-064

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CENTRAL FAX CENTERAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (currently amended) A fuel cell including at least one first and second unit cells stacked together in a stacking direction, each of said first and second unit cells comprising:
an electrolyte electrode assembly including a pair of electrodes and an electrolyte interposed between said electrodes;
a pair of separators for sandwiching said electrolyte electrode assembly; [[and]]
a plurality of metal clip members for holding outer regions of said first and second separators at a plurality of positions; and
a clip attachment section for attaching said metal clip member,
wherein each of said metal clip members includes a side plate curved at opposite ends, and first and second holding portions extending from the opposite ends of said side plate;
a length of said first and second holding portions is greater than a length of said side plate; [[and]]
said first and second separators are tightened together between said first and second holding portions; and
said metal clip member attached to said clip attachment section of said first unit cell is not in alignment with said metal clip member attached to said clip attachment section of said second unit cell.
2. (original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said first and second holding portions have edges curved or bent away from each other.
3. (currently amended) A fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein said edges of said first and said second holding portions protrude from opposite sides of said first and second holding portions for a predetermined distance.
4. (original) A fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein an opening is formed centrally in

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each of said first and second holding portions.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A fuel cell according to claim 1[[5]], wherein said clip attachment section includes first and second positions for selectively attaching said metal clip member to said clip attachment section at one of said first and second positions.

7. (previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said pair of separators includes first and second separators, said first and second separators each comprising:

a metal plate; and

an insulating section formed of one of an insulating resin and an insulating coating disposed at an outer end of said metal plate,

wherein said metal clip member is attached to said insulating section of said first separator and said insulating section of said second separator.

8. (original) A fuel cell according to claim 7, wherein said first and second separators include curved ends, respectively; and

said curved ends of said first and second separators are curved or bent away from each other at said insulating sections of said first and second separators for preventing disengagement of said metal clip member from said first and second separators.

9. (original) A fuel cell according to claim 8, wherein said curved end includes said insulating section of insulating resin or insulating coating formed at said outer end of said metal plate.